

REMARKS

Claims 4-9, 11-46, 48, 49, 56, 58-60, 62-65 are now pending in the application. Claims 2, 3, 10, 47, 50-55, 57, and 61 have been previously cancelled. The amendments to the claims contained herein are of equivalent scope as originally filed and, thus, are not a narrowing amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Applicant amends claims 15, 23, and 27 herewith in order to correct the amendments made to the claims in the January 27, 2006 Response. The prior amendment was intended to re-write claims 15, 23, and 27 in independent form, and the present amendment deletes language that should have been previously deleted.

CONCLUSION

Prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (734) 354-5445.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 7, 2006

By: 
Ronald W. Wangerow, Reg. No. 29,597

FREUDENBERG-NOK GENERAL PARTNERSHIP
Legal Department
47690 East Anchor Court
Plymouth, MI 48170-2455
Direct Line: (734) 354-5445
Facsimile: (734) 451-1445

Serial No. 10/706,443

Page 27 of 27